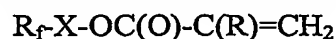


CLAIMS

1. Method of treating a non-woven substrate or textile, comprising the step of applying to said non-woven substrate or textile a fluorochemical composition comprising a fluoropolymer that comprises:

(a) between 10 and 97 mole% of units that can be derived from fluorinated monomer selected from the group consisting of monomers according to the general formula:



wherein R_f represents a perfluorinated aliphatic group having 3 or 4 carbon atoms, X is an organic divalent linking group, and R represents hydrogen or a lower alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms;

(b) between 3 and 75 mole % of units derived from a chlorine containing comonomer selected from the group consisting of vinylidene chloride, vinyl chloride and mixtures thereof; and

(c) optionally further units derived from monomers other than a fluorinated monomer and said chlorine containing comonomers; wherein the amount of units (a), (b) and (c) adding up to 100%,

whereby said fluorochemical composition is applied in such amount that the weight of fluoropolymer on said non-woven substrate or textile is not more than 3% by weight based on the weight of said non-woven substrate or textile.

2. Method according to claim 1 wherein the amount of units derived from said fluorinated monomer is between 25 and 97 mole%.

3. Method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the fluorochemical composition is applied in such amount that the weight of fluoropolymer on said non-woven substrate or textile is not more than 1% by weight based on the weight of said non-woven substrate or textile.

4. Method according to any of the previous claims wherein said optional further units (c) comprise cure site units and said fluoropolymer comprises said cure site units in an amount

of not more than 20 mole %.

- 5 5. Method according to any of the previous claims wherein said optional further units (c) comprise units derived from a hydrocarbon comonomer of the formula set forth below and said fluoropolymer comprises said units in an amount of up to 72 mole %:

R_h-L-Z

wherein R_h represents an aliphatic group having 4 to 30 carbon atoms, L represents an organic divalent linking group and Z represents an ethylenically unsaturated group.

- 10 6. Method according to any of the previous claims wherein said organic divalent linking group X is selected from the group consisting of alkylene, aralkylene, arylene, sulfonamido, carbonamido, carbonyloxy, urethanylene, ureylene and combinations thereof.

- 15 7. Method according to any of the previous claims wherein said fluorochemical composition further comprises an isocyanate extender, a blocked isocyanate extender, a melamine based extender or an anionic binder.

8. Method according to any of the previous claims wherein said non-woven substrate is a non-woven web of thermoplastic polymer fibers and/or cellulose fibers.

- 20 9. Method according to claim 8 wherein said non-woven substrate is a surgical drape or gown or a wrapping for surgical instruments.

10. Method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said textile is a rain- or outerwear article.

- 25 11. Method according to claim 1, 2 or 5 wherein said fluorinated monomer comprises at least one monomer according to said general formula (I) with R representing CH_3 .

- 30 12. Non-woven substrate or textile having on a surface thereof an amount of the fluoropolymer as defined in claim 1 or 2 of not more than 3% by weight based on the weight of said non-woven substrate or textile.